

MSC Fishery Announcement

Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery

Marine Stewardship Council Fishery Announcement

Table 1 – Fishery announcement

1	Fishery name
	Eastern Pacific Ocean tropical tuna - purse seine (TUNACONS) fishery
2	Assessment number
	Initial assessment
3	Reduced reassessment (Yes/No)
	No
4	Statement that the fishery is within scope
	<p>The fishery under assessment has been found to meet scope requirements (FCP v2.1 7.4) for MSC fishery assessments as it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Does not operate under a controversial unilateral exemption to an international agreement, use destructive fishing practices, target amphibians, birds, reptiles or mammals and is not overwhelmed by dispute; (FCP v2.1 7.4.2.1, 7.4.2.2, 7.4.3, 7.4.5) ✓ The fishery does not engage in shark finning, has mechanisms for resolving disputes (FCP v2.1 7.4.5.1), and has not previously failed assessment or had a certificate withdrawn. ✓ Is not an enhanced or IPI fishery, is not based on an introduced species (FCP v2.1 7.4.6, 7.4.7, 7.5.8-13) ✓ The fishery does not overlap with other MSC certified or applicant fisheries, including: Northeastern Tropical Pacific Purse Seine yellowfin and skipjack tuna fishery, French Polynesia albacore and yellowfin longline fishery and OPAGAC tuna fisheries – yellowfin, skipjack, and bigeye tuna. Overlap with another MSC certified or applicant fishery has been considered and scores will be harmonized for the relevant principles. ✓ And does not include an entity successfully prosecuted for violating forced labor laws (FCP v2.1 7.4.4) ✓ The units of assessment, certification, and eligible fishers have been defined, traceability risks characterized, and certificate sharing mechanisms decided (FCP v2.1 7.5.1-7.5.7)

Table 1. Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) and Unit(s) of Certification (UoC): TUNACONs fleet

UoA 1, 2, 3	Description
Species	Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	Vessels operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and Ecuador's EEZ
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using freeschool and FAD sets
Client group	Vessels identified by TUNACONs members, including Eurofish, NIRSA, Servigrup, Tri Marine, and Jadran.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Flag states	Vessels are flagged to (1) Ecuador (2) Panama and (3) the United States.
UoA 4,5, 6	Description
Species	Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	Vessels operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and Ecuador's EEZ
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using free school and FAD sets
Client group	Vessels identified by TUNACONs members, including Eurofish, NIRSA, Servigrup, Tri Marine, and Jadran.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Flag states	Vessels are flagged to (4) Ecuador (5) Panama and (6) the United States.
UoA 7, 8, 9	Description
Species	Bigeye Tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	Vessels operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area and Ecuador's EEZ
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using free school and FAD sets
Client group	Vessels identified by TUNACONs members, including Eurofish, NIRSA, Servigrup, Tri Marine, and Jadran.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.

Flag states	Vessels are flagged to (7) Ecuador (8) Panama and (9) the United States.
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Table 2 Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) and Unit(s) of Certification (UoC): US-based small-purse seine fleet

UoA 10	Description
Species	Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	Vessels operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area. Vessels are based out of San Diego, CA.
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using free school and FAD sets
Client group	Three small purse-seine Tri Marine vessels.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Flag states	Vessels are flagged to the United States.
UoA 11	Description
Species	Skipjack tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Stock	Eastern Pacific Ocean stock
Geographical area	Vessels operating in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission Convention area. Vessels are based out of San Diego, CA.
Harvest method / gear	Purse-seine gear types using free school and FAD sets
Client group	Three small purse-seine Tri Marine vessels.
Other eligible fishers	There are no other eligible fishers.
Flag states	Vessels are flagged to the United States.

6 Certificate sharing statement

Certificate Sharing Mechanism in place

Fishers that are part of the Tunacons fishery are considered as 'other eligible fishers', which may be able to access the certificate at the discretion of the Client Group. (A separate letter for Certificate Sharing Mechanisms will be provided).

7 Name of proposed team leader

Alexander “Sandy” Morison – Morison Aquatic Sciences, Team Lead, P1 & P2, Offsite

Mr. Morison is a consultant specializing in fisheries and aquatic sciences. He has over 30 years’ experience in fishery science and assessment at state, national and international levels and has held senior research positions for state and national organizations in Australia. He is currently chair of the Ecologically Related Species Working Group of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) and has been engaged in the Kobe process for harmonization of measures across the tuna RFMOs.

Mr. Morison has considerable experience with issues of tuna and other pelagic species through various positions in addition to his current role with CCSBT. He was Australia’s representative on the Science Working Group during the establishment of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and was the inaugural chair of the Jack Mackerel Working Group during that time. He has also chaired Australia’s East Coast Tuna and Billfish Resource Assessment Group.

Mr. Morison has participated as part of a team undertaking MSC pre-assessments for several fisheries and is also trained as a lead auditor for MSC assessments.

- ✓ Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Mackerel Icefish: Reassessments and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- ✓ Heard Island and MacDonald Islands Patagonian toothfish: First assessment, reassessment and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- ✓ Lakes and Coorong Fishery (South Australia): Reassessments and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- ✓ Macquarie Island Patagonian toothfish fishery: First assessment, reassessment and surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- ✓ Kyoto Danish Seine Fishery: Reassessment (Principle 1).
- ✓ Western Rock Lobster Fishery: Surveillance audits and reassessment. (Principle 1)
- ✓ PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seine fishery (skipjack tuna): Surveillance audits (Principle 1).
- ✓ PNA Western and Central Pacific unassociated purse seine fishery (yellowfin tuna): Expedited assessment (Principle 1).
- ✓ Northeastern Tropical Pacific purse seine yellowfin & skipjack tuna: first assessment (Principle 2).
- ✓ Tri Marine Western and Central Pacific skipjack and yellowfin tuna: first assessment (Team leader, Principle 1 and Principle 2).
- ✓ Peel-Harvey Inlet, blue swimmer crab and sea mullet fisheries (Principle 1).
- ✓ Western Australia deep sea crab fishery (Principle 1).
- ✓ Australian pearl oyster fishery (Principle 1).

Mr. Morison was the facilitator for an assessment of the ecological risks from Queensland’s East Coast Trawl Fishery that looked at the full range of ecological components. He was senior author of the report that synthesized background information and the results of an expert workshop and was co-author of the summary and technical reports that described the results of the project. He was subsequently engaged to assist with an assessment of this fishery’s vulnerability to climate change.

Sandy is also contracted by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to chair the South East Fisheries Resource Assessment Group and the Shark Fisheries Resource Assessment Group, is the Scientific Representative on the South East Fishery Management Advisory Committee and is a member of the South

	<p>East Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group. He has also been the scientific representative on other Resource Assessment Groups. Sandy has experience with the assessment of invertebrate, chondrichthyan and teleost fisheries including commercial and recreational fisheries in freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats and fisheries operating in tropical, temperate and polar environments.</p> <p>He has particular expertise with fish age and growth and has been involved in the development and implementation of harvest strategies for several fisheries. He has over 20 publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals (8 as senior author), 8 book chapters, and over 100 project reports, technical reports, client reports and papers in workshop and conference proceedings.</p> <p>For more details visit: www.morisonaqsci.com.au</p> <p>The proposed team leader meets the MSC Team leader qualifications in that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Relevant degree and/or equivalent experience in the fisheries sector related to tasks under responsibility of a team leader (Evidence: published over 20 scientific publications and Sandy is also contracted by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority to chair the South East Fisheries Resource Assessment Group and the Shark Fisheries Resource Assessment Group, and the Tropical Rock Lobster Working Group. This includes being chair of the current and previous assessment groups that have been responsible for the assessments of Australia's orange roughy fisheries. He is also the Scientific Representative on the South East Fishery Management Advisory Committee and is a member of the South East Scalefish and Shark Fishery Resource Assessment Group. He has also been the scientific representative on other Resource Assessment Groups) ✓ Completed of the latest MSC training modules applicable to this assessment (V2.1 Team Leader MSC modules) within the past five years (February 7, 2019) ✓ Has passed new online training modules on modifications to the MSC Fisheries Standard before undertaking assessments using these modifications such as enhanced bivalves, salmon and other modifications that may be developed in the future. (February 7, 2019) ✓ Has undertaken 2 MSC fishery assessments or surveillance site visits in the last 5 years (Solomon Islands Longline Full Assessment 2019, Tri Marine WCPO Surveillance Year 2 2018) ✓ Has demonstrated experience in applying different types of interviewing and facilitation techniques, as verified by SCS records and previous audit reports and ASI audits. ✓ Is competent in the MSC Standard and current Certification Requirements, auditing techniques, and communication and stakeholder facilitation techniques, as verified by his many years as an auditor and successful witnesses of ASI. ✓ Has affirmed he holds no conflict of interest.
8	Name(s) of proposed team members
	<p>Gerard Dinardo, Senior Technical Specialist at SCS, Responsible for Principles 1 and 2</p> <p>Dr. Gerard DiNardo has over 25 years of experience as a research fishery scientist and senior manager for NOAA Fisheries in the United States, as well as extensive knowledge, understanding, and involvement in fishery issues and processes of tuna-RFMOs and RFOs. Ensuring sustainable development and management of fisheries, including the identification of research and plans of action to support effective management decision making has been the focus throughout his career, and with a strong background and understanding of international fisheries and MSC. He holds an MSc from Long Island University, C.W. Post Center and</p>

a Ph.D from University of Maryland, where his dissertation topic was FISHMAP: An Expert System for Sampling Fish Populations.

Gerard was appointed as the Fisheries Resources Division Director of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center in San Diego, CA from 2015 to 2019. Previously, he held several positions at NMFS, including Supervisor of the Stock Assessment Program in the Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. Dr. DiNardo has multiple publications related to the assessment of pelagic species, including tuna. He's held positions as Co-Chair of the Joint PICES/ISC Working Group on Ocean Conditions and the Distribution and Productivity of Highly Migratory Fish for the North Pacific Marine Science Organization, standing member of the NMFS National Stock Assessment Methods Steering Committee, science expert on the U.S.A. Delegation to the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and Chair of the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC).

Dr. DiNardo's experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.1):

- ✓ With relevant degree (PhD from the University of Maryland) and over 5 years of research experience in a marine conservation biology and fisheries
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years.
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ The team member will be onsite

Dr. Michael Harte, Independent Contractor, Responsible for Principle 3

Dr. Michael Harte is a Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University in the USA, having trained in physical geography and economics in New Zealand and Canada. He is recognized internationally as a fisheries and marine policy adviser, researcher, educator and program leader. He has held senior positions in the private, public, academic and NGO sectors in Australia, the US, the Falkland Islands, Canada and New Zealand.

Dr. Harte has extensive policy and economic analysis experience working with commercial and small-scale fisheries, ecosystem-based fisheries management, bio-economic analysis of fisheries, climate impacts on fisheries, eco-labelling, cost recovery and resource rents in fisheries, and the development of policies and regulations associated with the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries, as well as work on seafood markets and traceability. His work spans both academic and practical fishery management domains. Dr. Harte experience satisfies the MSC requirements for a Team Member as described in PC2 (FCP v2.1):

- ✓ With relevant degree a PhD in Geography from University of Victoria, and over 5 years of research experience in management or research experience in a marine conservation biology, fisheries, and natural resources
- ✓ Has passed the MSC compulsory training modules for Team Members within the last 5 years (August 6, 2019).
- ✓ Affirms they have no conflict of interest in conducting this assessment.
- ✓ The team member will be onsite

9	Stakeholder opportunities
	<p>The following are the the opportunities for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Announcement Comment Draft Report</i> – 60 days for stakeholder input (30 days if Re-Assessment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The consultation period ends Monday November 23rd at 17:00 UTC. 2. <i>Site Visit</i> – (Details in section 12 of this Announcement)- All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. 3. <i>Peer Review College</i> – registered stakeholders can inform the Peer Review College regarding any potential conflicts of interest of the peer reviewers proposed. 4. <i>Public Comment Draft Report</i> – 30 days for stakeholder submissions of any new information relating to the fishery that the team should consider in the assessment of the fishery, from stakeholders who provided written input on the Announcement Comment Draft report or attended the site visit (in person or remotely) 5. <i>Objection to Final Draft Report and Determination</i>– 15 calendar days open to objections from stakeholders that participated in previous consultation opportunities. <p>The following are the input methods for stakeholders to participate during the assessment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SCS will only accept stakeholder input as public record if submitted using the ‘MSC Template for Stakeholder Input into Fishery Assessments’, or if raised at the site visit in person or remotely (FCP v2.1, 7.15.3) ■ Stakeholders must provide objective evidence and references in support of any claims or any claimed errors of fact (FCP v2.1, 7.15.4) ■ SCS encourages stakeholders not to withhold information, and SCS will not permit use of confidential information for reference within an assessment, as basis for determination of an assessment outcome, or as basis for an objection to certification. Confidential information is restricted to defined exceptions listed in FCP v2.1 (4.3.3). <p>Click here for the hyperlink to the: MSC Template for Stakeholder Input Fishery Assessment</p>
10	Assessment tree to be used
	The default V2.01 assessment tree is to be used without modification.
11	Estimated timeline
	<p>The assessment is planned for completion within 12 months of the fishery announcement, with a certification date predicted for the start of September 2021, if the assessment result is positive.</p> <p>A separate assessment timeline is included in the announcement materials which includes projected approximate dates for key versions of the report.</p>
12	Site visit
	<p>SCS invites participants to attend the site visit is tentatively scheduled for the second week of December. The site visit will likely take place remotely. All members of the team are available to meet with stakeholders in person or remotely. If the site visit date changes, registered stakeholders will be informed.</p>

	<p>Any parties (individuals or organizations) interested in providing input at the on-site meetings or via email, and/or in being directly informed of future stakeholder announcements, please contact SCS at ganhalzer@scsglobalservices.com with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ your name and contact details; ■ your association with the fishery; and ■ the issues you would like to discuss (in order for us to arrange appropriate representation). <p><i>RBF:</i></p> <p>If the RBF is deemed necessary, any onsite meetings to meet requirements of the RBF will be announced separately. Any such meetings will comply with the following statement:</p> <p>A key purpose of the site visit is to collect information and to speak to stakeholders with an interest in the fishery. For those parts of the assessment involving the MSC's Risk Based Framework (RBF), if deemed applicable, see http://www.msc.org/about-us/standards/methodologies/fam/msc-risk-based-framework, Please note we will be using a stakeholder-driven, qualitative analysis during the site visit. To achieve a robust outcome from this consultative approach, we rely heavily on participation of a broad range of stakeholders with a balance of knowledge of the fishery. We encourage any stakeholders with experience or knowledge of the fishery to participate in these meetings.</p>
13	Assessment tree modifications
	NA

Submitted by: Gabriela Anhalzer

Date: September 24th

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Template version control

Version	Date of publication	Description of amendment
1.0	8 October 2014	Date of issue
2.0	17 December 2018	Release alongside Fisheries Certification Process v2.1
2.01	28 March 2019	Minor document change for usability

A controlled document list of MSC program documents is available on the [MSC website](http://www.msc.org) (msc.org)

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